



**U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement**

ICE Statement

May 11, 2005

ICE ADVISORY TO THE PUBLIC ON COUNTERFEIT LAW ENFORCEMENT BADGES

Earlier this week, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents in New York seized more than 1,300 high-quality counterfeit police badges that closely resembled the badges of many different federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies around the nation, including those of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the U.S. Secret Service, the Drug Enforcement Administration, and the New York Police Department.

This seizure has serious Homeland Security and public safety implications, given that these counterfeit badges may have been intended for use by criminals and others with no legal authority to carry law enforcement badges. ICE agents have launched a full investigation to determine the intended recipients of these badges and to track down any counterfeit badges that may have fallen into the wrong hands.

As this investigation continues, ICE and the Department of Homeland Security remind the public that a police badge alone does not necessarily reflect law enforcement status. Legitimate police and law enforcement officers should present credentials with photo identification as well as a badge when conducting their duties.

We encourage the public to report to ICE and the Department of Homeland Security any information about individuals displaying, using, or distributing counterfeit law enforcement badges. ICE's toll-free hotline is 1-866-DHS-2ICE. The lines are staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.